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Governor Glynn Should Watch the Tammany Legislature's Work on His Reforms.

Governor Glynn's legislative programme, with its inclusion of the Massachusetts form of ballot for general elections, is more ambitious and radical than had been expected. It is wholly creditable to him, just as it is discreditable to Tammany, that these recommendations have to be renewed when that organization is on the eve of losing the Assembly, because of its failure to heed them before or the evasive and untrustworthy manner of pretended compliance with the reforms which the Governor lists. Only the most hopeless and blessed of shellbacked politicians now pretend to doubt the extent and genuineness of the demand for sweeping primary and election law reforms. Tammany, apparently, has recognized the public demand and is about to comply with it—or seem to.

There is the critical point both for Governor Glynn's reforms and the public's interest. The Governor's sincerity and desire to have enacted the best possible bills are beyond suspicion. Tammany's record on direct primaries, for instance, forces the public to take all Tigerish protestations of reform with a grain of salt. Already there are objections to some details of the primary bill introduced by the Judiciary committee—details seemingly of little importance, yet important in that they may in practical operation assure the machine of opportunity to set at naught the real spirit of the direct primary. That was the kind of law Tammany made by slight technical changes in the system which Governor Hughes worked out so carefully—the present law, with its monstrous fourteen-foot ballots and party committee candidates maintained by party funds and voted for under the party emblem. It is desirable, therefore, that there be the fullest scrutiny and the fullest discussion of this measure before it is passed—if it is to be passed by a chastened Tammany.

Less chance exists to hoodwink the public as to the Massachusetts ballot legislation. Less willingness exists, also, to pass such a bill, for in abolishing the party column ballot the Legislature will be doing a great thing to put the independent voter on an equality with the "straight party man." It is certain that, once they are compelled to face the prospect of a voting body unable to swallow the entire list of candidates at a gulp, but forced to make discrimination by the form of the ballot, political parties themselves will be forced to present better grade candidates.

The Governor's ideas on a workmen's compensation bill are excellent—if the bill bears them out in all its details. Of that the public wants to be certain before it is willing to have the Legislature rush the measure upon the statute books. It is a trifle unfortunate for Mr. Glynn that to bring about his reforms he must have Tammany's assistance, just at present. His measures, even though desirable, will be regarded with suspicion if Tammany accepts them readily. The public is bound to watch Tammany legislation. And Governor Glynn may find it will pay him, too, to watch carefully all that the Legislature does with his projects.

Platforms, Programmes and Suffragists.

The President applied his most deft diplomacy to the visiting suffragists, but we are not sure that it was altogether convincing. When Dr. Shaw requested him to take the initiative by sending a message to Congress on the subject of votes for women he replied that he could not do so because it was not set forth in the party platform.

Yet, if we remember aright, it was he who gave to the world and to the next edition of "Familiar Quotations" the sententious apophthegm, "a platform is not a programme." And as he made that statement positively, without qualification, we must assume that he meant it to apply in both directions, and since a platform is not a programme, it is not necessary either to do all that it says or to do nothing that it does not mention.

As to his having initiated, when Governor of New Jersey, no policies not previously embodied in the party platform, that is a bit of news which will cause all Trenton and New Jersey to sit up and to remark that for the largest possible "loose construction" of a platform plank he surely was a master hand.

Finally, how about that federal law for direct primaries, as to which scheme the Baltimore platform is so strangely silent?

The Chancellor's Responsibility.

Those were "bravo words" of Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg's in the Reichstag yesterday, when he declared that body to pass a constitutional amendment making the Imperial Chancellor a responsible minister. True, it was only a few years ago that his predecessor voluntarily declared in that same body that thereafter the Chancellor, with the other ministers, would be responsible. But perhaps that was a mere *obiter dictum*, not officially or permanently binding.

But even the bravest words of the most furious Bombastes have their limitations, and the more those of a statesman who does not mean to be bombastic. It may be quite true that to make the Chancellor responsible would be to impair the imperial prerogative as it now exists. But, after all, the imperial prerogative is, in a constitutional country, a matter of constitutional determination, and a constitution is always susceptible of amendment.

It is not probable that such an amendment could be put through the Reichstag. It almost certainly could not pass the Bundesrath. But it would certainly seem to be legitimate to propose it and to

try to pass it, and if it should pass both houses we should expect to see it prevail. And one of these days we shall not be surprised to see it pass.

The Woodrovia Monocle.

All sorts of defences are being attempted in behalf of the monocle which President Wilson now flaunts in the face of the great Democratic party. It is not a monocle at all, say some casuists. Just because it hangs on a string and is held in the hand! A plain people when face to face with a wretched monarchical custom cannot be thus trifled with. Other defenders boldly support the right of Mr. Wilson to wear anything he pleases. As if any President were a free citizen!

There have been Presidents who have worn spats, we understand, and got away with it. One President was even known as the best dressed gentleman in America. But that was long before the voice of the direct primary was heard in the land. And the varlet was a Republican, of course. No Jeffersonian Democrat has ever lived who so much as dreamed of spats—or of wearing anything save the plainest sort of raiment—and rather mused at that.

There can be no real excuses, and we wait impatiently to hear Mr. Bryan—who is said to sleep in his trousers to give them that ultra-democratic quality—arise and damn all monocles and each and every attempt to introduce monarchical institutions among a free and enlightened people.

The Boss and His Friends.

It has always been understood by the discerning that it was a good thing to have the boss "in on the deal" if you wanted to get good contracts with plenty of "fat" in them. Now it appears, from the testimony of Murphy—not the Murphy, just a contractor this one—that next to having the boss as a partner it was good to have the boss's friends. So he divided commissions on paying contracts with "Jim" Gaffney and "Joe" Carroll, whose sole contribution to the partnership was to "see" the Commissioner of Highways.

The John Doe investigation as conducted by District Attorney Whitman is providing a liberal education for the public in graft methods. The one big lesson is that the public pays—contractor graft, politicians' graft, all comes out of the poor but honest taxpayer. He even has to pay the board bills of the grafters who go to jail. But he'll get much satisfaction in seeing some of the grafters now being uncovered put behind the bars.

Whitewashing the Hen.

It is all very well for the Department of Agriculture to defend the hen. That is, no doubt, its business. But the public will be slow to accept any soft-hearted apology for this lazy, ungrateful animal. It will especially resent the effort of the department to present the pullets of the country in the light of heroines rushing to succor a starving nation.

Nothing could be further from the fact. There may be certain reasons why the current crop of pullets were slow to lay. It may be true that they are now at work with a will. The fact remains that no hen or pullet will lay if she can possibly help it, and she invariably manages to help it at those seasons of the year when eggs are especially high in price.

There is, in fact, no such thing as an appreciative, willing hen. The average cackler has just as much regard for the human race as a cold storage plant, or even—we hate to say anything so brutal, but the truth is the truth—or even the proprietor of a cold storage plant.

An Atlantic City Contrast.

The City by the Boardwalk has this week seen a wondrous spectacle. On the one hand the once omnipotent boss, Commodore "Lou" Kuehne, gave up his desperate fight to keep out of prison, and on the other for a day the acting Mayor of the city was a young woman, who is, in fact, regularly the city Controller.

Between the two incidents there was a close relationship. The same civic uprising which freed the city from the autocracy of the boss also brought into power the new scheme of commission government, under which apparently a competent woman is preferred for public office to an incompetent man, though he has a vote and "influence" and she has neither. The incidents should give hope alike to suffragists and to workers for municipal administration freed from politics and pull.

As to "Promises to Revolutionists."

The Santo Domingo incident suggests serious questioning of the expedience, not to say the propriety, of making compacts of any kind with unrecognized revolutionists in other countries. We are told that our government is constrained to insist upon "observing" the coming elections, because of Mr. Sullivan's "promises to the revolutionists," on the strength of which promises the revolutionists agreed to suspend their activities.

In a sense that compact was mediation. But it was mediation between, on the one hand, an unrecognized and quite irresponsible party, and, on the other, a party which gave no assent to the procedure and no promise to abide by its result. We cannot consider such a bargain as likely to produce any other results than embarrassment for the third party which makes and undertakes to execute it.

Dealings of any kind with insurgents or revolutionists, until they are recognized as belligerents, or unless with the sanction of the sovereign power, are exceedingly delicate and perilous undertakings. They involve grave danger of violating the principles of neutrality and of giving real offence to the government against which the revolt is directed. They also involve the danger of inconsistency in a power which announces that it will not recognize the legitimacy of a revolutionary government, and at the same time enters into an agreement with revolutionists against their constitutional rulers.

Commission Government for Counties.

The Short Ballot Organization wants to reorganize county administration in this state outside of New York City on the "commission government" plan. It will advocate legislation for the election in each county of three supervisors, instead of the present cumbersome boards, and these three will have power to hire a county manager, who shall have power to appoint other officials necessary. Urging some reorganization of county affairs along this general line, "The Utica Observer," pointing out the general inadequacy of the present system, declares that at least \$50,000 could be saved annually in Oneida County by such a readjustment of the county machinery.

A large board of supervisors is a highly expensive luxury for a county, and various jobs now existing in most counties could be easily omitted with bene-



— Didn't I tell you this fella Mitchel was a lemon? He's going to make appointments for MERIT!

fit to everybody but the job holders. The taxpayers suffer; the public business suffers frequently. There is no real reason why the commission idea, or some variant of it, could not be applied to county affairs with the same success it has achieved in municipal administration.

The Wilson monocle—a single highlight for a single track mind?

"Defect in Primary Bill." Only one? Happy bill!

Representative McKellar says: "The pullets have talked more lately than the packers of eggs have done." But they laid before they cackled.

McCooley is out for direct primaries, too. Perhaps he may be out because of them soon.

"Cost Gamblers \$125,000." Rather, cost their dupes.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

When the remarkable religious motion picture, "The Life of Martin Luther," was given private exhibition before an audience of clergymen the other day, preparatory to presentation at the New York Hippodrome, a humble attaché of the circus end of the huge amusement institution crept into the exclusive fold.

Emerging, the irreverent youth encountered one of the dignitaries responsible for the importation of the film from Germany, who beamed upon him and said: "Well, young man, what part of the work did you like best?"

"The bill of fare," responded the low brow circus person.

"The bill of fare?" repeated the dignitary. "Why, what on earth do you mean?"

"The Diet of Worms," came the quick reply that floored the pompous gentleman.

Swell—Why, sonny, do you always smoke cigars? What's your favorite brand?

Urchin (puffing at a cigar end)—I always smoke Robinson Crusoes.

Swell—I don't think I've ever heard of that brand.

Urchin—Haven't you, guv'nor? Don't you know that old Crusoe was a castaway?—Concde Cuts.

PREXY'S HIGH COST REMEDY.

"I note," the Prexy said, in gloom.

"The cost of living's high."

But what to do to bring it down

I know not what to try;

The people heard our promise made

And fairly palpitate

To have a cut that can be felt,

So I'll investigate.

Meanwhile, all o'er this harassed land,

The cost of living soared,

No money could the victim save,

Not even a dollar hoard;

But Prexy, guessing, cornered, stumped,

Dared not prognosticate;

Yet, knowing something must be done,

Said, "I'll investigate." E. C. H.

"Why is it," queried the fair widow, "that they always say a man 'pines' for a woman?"

"I suppose," growled the fussy bachelor, "it's because the pine is about the softest wood there is."—Pathfinder.

If the day of the Big Wind is a milestone in Irish history, certainly the day of the big blizzard is one in the life of New York. Here's how it figured in a case recently brought to the attention of the Department of Health:

An elderly man called to find out the date of birth of one of six children, who has for some years been lost track of. The father could not remember the date, except that it was in the 80's and a fearfully cold night that the stork arrived.

VETO THE HETCH-HETCHY BILL.

If President Wilson Disapproves It Cannot Be Passed Over His Head.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In view of the unwarrantable Senatorial action voting to give San Francisco politicians and greedy exploiters an entering wedge into the public domain, now is the time for right-minded editors and patriotic citizens in general to impressively call upon the President to distinguish himself by vetoing this bill. It obviously cannot be passed over his veto, because forty-three is not two-thirds of sixty-eight, much less two-thirds of to-day's full United States Senate, where, being vetoed, this scandalous measure must, eventually, be reconsidered and duly voted on again.

It is convincingly clear that the Hetch-hetchy Valley grab is not popular as a solution of San Francisco's water problem. The methods pursued by its sponsors in Washington simply carried many Senators off their feet by confusion of haste.

ALFRED LAURENS BRENNAN.

New York, Dec. 7, 1913.

'SAFETY FIRST' ON NEW HAVEN

A Traveler Applauds the Road's New Policy for Engineers.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In the great speech delivered in Boston by Howard Elliott a couple of months ago one of the most significant and important features therein set forth was the "speed question." As a not infrequent patron of the New Haven system, I rejoiced to discover, in a correspondence with the New Haven office, that the sentiment above alluded to had materialized and that the chief executive of that road under the head of "new policy" had not urged engineers to make up time.

In other words, it is putting into actual practice the new plan—safety first. Under a recent order issued from the general manager's office and backed by higher railroad authority, engineers are not to be "dragged to the carpet" for an explanation if they are a few minutes or even a half hour late if their time sheet gives a reasonably good excuse for their failure to make schedule.

Now the travelling public is credibly assured that there will be no more seventy or seventy-five miles an hour running on the Shore Line east, or the Shore Line west, which, it is said, are the best stretches of railroad in the country. This will indeed be welcome news to the travelling public as a whole.

During the recent period when fearful accidents followed one another in quick succession, who that had relatives or friends or both on the "line of steel" had not urged engineers to make up time between the two great cities did not breathe free when arrivals were safe?

The testimony of engineers goes to show that the fear under the old policy of going otherwise than to meet the official schedule forced them to take oftentimes dangerous risks and chances. And is it not, under the circumstances, the duty of the great travelling public to back up the new policy in a diversified sentiment that carries with it unmistakable support? GEORGE F. TINKER.

New London, Conn., Dec. 8, 1913.

A PLEA FOR MERCY

The Prison Sentence of a Thirteen-Year Girl Is Criticised.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Could not the sympathies of the men and women of our city, as well as those of other large cities of the Union, be roused to work in the behalf of Kathleen Simmon (the thirteen-year-old girl who was sentenced to prison in Warsaw, Saskatchewan, for killing a playmate), and having her placed in a school or religious home instead of a penitentiary? Won't those who worked to save Mrs. Wakefield from death endeavor to save this young girl from worse than death?

If there are no schools or homes in Warsaw, would it not be possible to have her placed outside of the city or state?

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

FOR REPUBLICAN REFORM

What Upstate Editors Say About the State Conference.

BARNES AND DISTRICT PRIMARIES.

From The Buffalo Courier.

The direct primary issue helped the undoing of Murphy. Is there likelihood that Barnes will fare better in opposing the sentiment of the times?

SAFE PROGRESSIVENESS.

From The Rochester Union and Advertiser.

In other proceedings of this conference it was shown that the progressive element in the Republican party of this state is making itself felt. Various reform policies were approved. The old conservatives who have so long insisted that there could be no safety in any kind of progress or change were forced to surrender.

A BLOW TO THE BOSS.

From The Utica Press.

The result of the conference cannot be regarded otherwise than as a severe blow to Mr. Barnes, and one upon which Republicans generally will congratulate themselves and the party. They are taking what is very generally considered the right stand, and if they had taken it before instead of afterward, more of their faith would be holding the official positions in this state and as well in the United States.

FACING FORWARD.

From The Buffalo News.

The New York conference shows to what a degree the party is facing the future, rather than contenting itself with the usual act of pointing with pride. What has happened elsewhere is illustrated by what has happened in this city and county. A large share of the vote that was diverted last year and this from the Republican count was diverted by way of protest against methods that were unpopular and ideas that voters would not tolerate.

FULLY REPRESENTATIVE.

From The Syracuse Post-Standard.

The Republican conference in New York on Friday was unofficial and without delegated powers. Nevertheless it was representative of the Republican party of the state. A majority of the Republican Assemblymen-elect were there. There was nothing cut and dried in the procedure. It was a frank, open discussion of party policy at the coming legislative session, and it cannot fail to have its influence upon the conduct of the Republicans in the Senate and Assembly.

SOON TO BE ANSWERED.

From The Albany Knickerbocker Press.

The question still remaining to be settled is whether those who carried resolutions for a state-wide direct primary law, the short ballot, the Massachusetts ballot, reform in the rules of the Assembly and of the legislative procedure, shall obtain control of the state organization in this state. Truly, times have changed since 1908, when Governor Hughes's earnest effort to put on the statute books a direct primary measure of much less radical import than the general scheme to which the New York conference was committed was condemned, ridiculed and finally baffled by the organization Republicans in the Legislature.

TRULY, TIMES HAVE CHANGED

From The Syracuse Herald.

The action of the Republican state conference in New York City in declaring for a radical programme of direct primaries, including the abolition of the state convention, will be a source of grim satisfaction, not to say ghastly glee, to all of the original advocates of the reform in this state. Truly, times have changed since 1908, when Governor Hughes's earnest effort to put on the statute books a direct primary measure of much less radical import than the general scheme to which the New York conference was committed was condemned, ridiculed and finally baffled by the organization Republicans in the Legislature.

LEWIS F. WENDELL.

New York, Dec. 8, 1913.

LADY PATRICK HENRY.

New York, Dec. 8, 1913.